



# THE CORNERSTONE



*The Shilo School - Caroline*

The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, a Provincial Crown Agency, was established in 1976 to assist in the preservation of the Province's historic buildings, sites and objects and to encourage and promote public awareness of Alberta's past. Donations and bequests of funds or property receive the tax benefit of a donation to the Crown.

Annual dues are \$10.00 which entitles a supporter to receive the Foundation's quarterly Journal, **The Cornerstone**.

Albertans are invited to contact the Foundation's office with their enquiries, news and information of subjects and events which they want to share through the pages of **The Cornerstone**.

Please direct all enquiries to:  
Alberta Historical Resources Foundation  
c/o Old St. Stephen's College  
8820 - 112 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2P8

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ISSNO 707 - 705X

# THE CORNERSTONE

Journal of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation

**COVER PHOTO:** *The Shilo school, Caroline, is typical of a once widespread Alberta institution, the one-room school. The first Alberta one-room school was erected in Edmonton in 1881. By 1914 there were 1,925 one-room schools in Alberta. The Shilo School district, established May 26, 1910, borrowed \$1200.00 to build and furnish the school and dig a well. The school was built on land purchased for \$2.00 from a Scottish pioneer settler, Mr. Davidson. The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation has provided \$10,000 for a new foundation and for restoring the floor joists of this Registered Historic Resource. Photo Credit: Historic Sites Service, Department of Culture & Multiculturalism.*

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#### Editorial Policy

The purpose of THE CORNERSTONE is primarily to inform others of the Foundation's activities and secondarily to communicate heritage news from around the province. The foundation is unable to pay for articles or photographs used in THE CORNERSTONE. Use of submitted material is at the discretion of the Editor.

## MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION'S CHAIRMAN

CANADIANA

May 24, 1990

AUG - 8 1990

Dear Foundation Member:

Please be aware that in an effort to maximize the efficiency of Alberta Historical Resources Foundation funds and reduce administrative costs, some administrative streamlining will be taking place within the organization. Utilizing an existing parallel government administrative structure, substantial on-going annual savings may be made by the Foundation in reduced administrative costs, and those savings may be channeled into increased grants and programmes. Independent decision-making by the Foundation's Board will remain intact, as will the Government's commitment to Foundation funding through lotteries revenues. All Foundation financial assistance programmes will still continue, and it is expected that clients will have improved access to the technical advisors of the Historical Resources Division of Alberta Culture & Multiculturalism.

The primary difference then will be in Head Office location and contact persons starting May 28th. The Alberta Mainstreet Programme will remain in its office in Calgary, near its present clients. However, the other administrative matters of the Foundation will be now handled in Edmonton by existing staff at the Historical Resources Division, which will now be sharing its Headquarters with the Foundation. Accordingly, the new Foundation address is c/o Old St. Stephen's College, 8820-112 Street Edmonton, T6G 2P8. For financial assistance information, please speak to the Grants Officer, Monika McNabb at 431- 2300. Should you have other policy concerns please contact Mark Rasmussen, Coordinating Director at the same telephone number, or write me at the Foundation's new address.

This streamlining is consistent with what has happened in a number of similar organizations, which has led to more money in the hands of clients, and improved administrative backup and support. However, should you have any concerns about the change, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,  
Charlach Mackintosh  
Chairman of the Board  
Alberta Historical Resources Foundation



## Thank You Members

The Foundation extends a warm welcome to the following new members. With the help of a strong membership the Foundation can more effectively carry out its preservation programmes.

**February 1, 1990 –  
May 31, 1990**

Wilhelmina Lutheran Church, Camrose; Vermilion & District Multicultural & Historical Society; Lorain Lounsberry, Calgary; G.F. Hustler Memorial Fund, Edmonton; Berry Creek Historical Society, Cessford; L. Helene Shrake, Calgary; Jack Davis, Calgary; Panorama Publications, Calgary; Judith Stableford, Calgary; Mary Perks, Loram Group of Companies, Calgary; Jane Patterson, Calgary; Elsie D.Green, Edmonton; Al Lyons, Edmonton; Alex McEachern, Edmonton; Vera Garrett, Carbon; Don & Frances Opp, Claresholm; L.P. Anderson, Edgerton; Anola Laing, Claresholm; Judy Wasylenko, Brooks; Brian Hamilton, Toronto; Isabel Dermott, Lacombe; Darlene Powell, Calgary; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Benns, High River; John Whitesell, Sundre; Donald Hutchinson, Rocky Mountain House; Donna Dahms, Rocky Mountain House; Valhalla Heritage Society; Norma Wolowyk, Edmonton; D.Ivan Inkster, Windsor, Ontario; Hilton H. Rix, Edmonton; Russo Greek Catholic Church of St. James, Mundare; Grace Petersen, Sundre; Walter Morck, Olds; Doug Crapo, Calgary; Gratien Allaire, Edmonton; Northern Alberta Pioneers & Descendants Association, Sherwood Park; Emanuel Cohen, Calgary; Eric & Joyce Bell, Calgary; James Coutts, Toronto; Inglewood Silver Threads Association, Calgary; David Lee, Calgary; Dave Thomson, Clairmont; Hazel Litzgus, Calgary; Jack Pine Grove School, Radway; John Boychuk, Radway; Henry Kemtrup, Spruce View; Gladys Taylor, Irricana; Selwyn Jacob, Edmonton; Mary Hall, Calgary; John A. Robichaud, Calgary; Krystyna Lukaszewicz, Calgary; Robert L. Rock, Kingston, Ontario; Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Sproule, Edmonton; Mr. & Mrs. Pryse Jones, Calgary; Queen Elizabeth 11 Hospital Foundation, Grande Prairie; Wayne Davies, Calgary; David Hardy, Edmonton; Gordon McRobbie, Red Deer; Alberta Sheep & Wool Commission, Calgary; Mrs. W. Trawick, Calgary; Allied Arts Council, Pincher Creek.

## REMINDER

The next Grant Funding date is September 1st in the following categories:

Feasibility & Planning Studies  
Historic Resource Preservation  
Workshops, Seminars,  
Conferences  
Research  
Professional Development  
Education  
Publications  
Heritage Awareness

The next Grant Funding date for Cemeteries is April 1, 1991.

For further information, please contact Monika McNabb, Grants Officer, c/o Old St. Stephen's College, 8820-112 Street, Edmonton, T6G 2P8.  
Phone (403) 431-2300

## ENVIRONMENT FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Environmental Partners Fund, a \$50 million, five year federal government program is the first environmental program, established on the basis of a fifty-fifty partnership between the federal government and the private sector.

Community groups, service clubs, environmental organizations, schools and youth groups can apply to Environment Canada for matching funds up to \$200,000 to clean up and rehabilitate the environment at the community level.

Application forms and guides are available from Environment Canada offices in the province.

*—Impact, a publication of  
Heritage Canada*



# MAIN STREET



# LACOMBE



## HISTORIC DISTRICT PROTECTED

On April 9th, 1990, at a regular meeting of the Town of Lacombe Council, a provincial precedent for the preservation of a heritage district was established, when Mayor Judy Gordon declared unanimous the passage of By-law 73.19. The By-law was designed to protect one of the province's most important collections of Edwardian commercial buildings and to guide the character of any new construction within the historic district. Prepared by the Red Deer Regional Planning Commission at the request of the Town of Lacombe, the by-law is the enabling legislation for the Main Street Historic Design Guidelines. The guidelines were prepared by Coordinator Pat Buchik, Restoration Architect David Murray and Chief Robert Graham, in consultation with the Main Street Design Advisory Committee to fulfil Main Street's mandate to preserve and protect Alberta's historic small town centres.

For Butch Treleaven, Chairman of the

Main Street Advisory Board and Editor of the award winning regional weekly, The Lacombe Globe, the passage of the by-law was a vindication of years of effort on behalf of Lacombe's heritage resources. For coordinator Pat Buchik, it was the culmination of three years of work and a fine conclusion to her role in the community. In September of this year Pat will assume a new position as Restoration Architect, Parks Canada. Main Street Lacombe has applied to the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation for a two year project extension beginning this fall.

—Robert Graham,  
*Alberta Main Street Programme*



# LACOMBE BLACKSMITH SHOP

A report from three University of Calgary students might provide the road map for preservation of an early 1900's blacksmith shop in Lacombe.

Prepared by Daryl Cariou, Debra Stan-Barton and Katherine Wagner under the supervision of Dr. Walter Jamieson from the University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental Design, the feasibility study delves into all aspects of the preservation and development of the site from interpretive potential, to site development, to fund raising.

Under interpretive potential, the study notes "The Lacombe Blacksmith shop is an excellent example of the blacksmith shops which were located in almost every village across the Canadian Prairies. The building and its contents can be used to illustrate a number of themes which deal not only with Lacombe, but in a much broader sense, with Western Canada."

The report goes on to suggest three main themes with several sub-themes for an interpretive centre located on the site of the blacksmith shop.

The three main themes suggested include Industrial Technology in Western Canada; The Art of the Farrier; and the Role of the Horse in the Development of Western Canada.

The report deals at length with the physical structure of the building and what would be required to transform it into an interpretive



Photo Credit: Main Street Project

centre. It suggests a seven-phase plan for the development accompanied by construction estimates. The report notes, however, that "without a firm program and design these estimates cannot be completely accurate. At best an order of magnitude can be suggested. Other factors such as the possible donation of materials and services could affect the final budget."

The need for local commitment to the development is found in the conclusion of the study: "In order to accomplish this it will be necessary to find individuals with a high level of commitment. Phasing the project may make it more manageable.

"The value of this resource does not lie in the building or machinery but in the stories that they can help tell. These stories can improve life in Lacombe and have an intrinsic value for our children. This project is feasible but requires a high level of dedication and commitment from the Town of Lacombe and its residents."

—Butch Treleaven, Chairman,  
Main Street Advisory Board,  
Lacombe

# Regional News

## HERITAGE POLICY IN ACTION

The Hudson's Bay Company department store in Edmonton's downtown is the first heritage building to take advantage of the City's Policy to Encourage the Designation and Rehabilitation of Municipal Historic Resources. Stewart, Green Properties Ltd., the owner and developer of the Hudson's Bay Centre, will receive \$1,623,000 over four years as compensation for the building's designation as a Municipal Historic Resource.

The Bay has been a landmark on the corner of Jasper Avenue and 103 Street since 1893. The present Bay building was constructed in 1939, with an addition in 1954, in the Moderne Style. The six huge panels, one over each entrance, feature carvings of the company's history in Western Canada.

These panels, found in no other Bay store in Canada, show the Nonsuch, the company's first ship to return to England in 1668 laden with furs, a fur trader, a farmer, a buffalo, a Red River cart and a York boat. The York boat was a small flat-bottomed sailboat which the company developed for river travel to Hudson Bay. Many of these boats were constructed in Fort Edmonton.

The building's exterior will be restored to its 1939 appearance. Inside the building, the retail space will be divided in half between the Bay and unique specialty shops designed by RTKL, a prestigious interior design company from Los Angeles.

The rehabilitation is expected to create 590 jobs during construction and 900 permanent jobs upon completion in 1991.

"This is a significant first step toward the retention and restoration of Edmonton's built heritage," says Duncan Fraser, the City of Edmonton's Heritage Officer.

## MACDONALD HOTEL RESTORATION

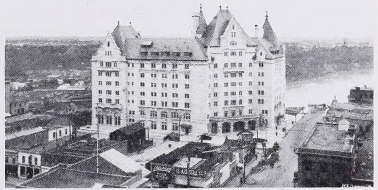


Photo Credit: Glenbow-Alberta-Institute  
Photographer: McDermid Studios, Edmonton

Restoration of the Macdonald Hotel, Edmonton's historic landmark, is now underway and is slated to be completed in the Spring of 1991. The 198 room hotel was closed in 1983 when the Canadian National started restoration.

The Canadian Pacific Hotels bought the hotel in 1988 and inherited an agreement between the Canadian National and the City of Edmonton entitling it to \$900,000 in tax concessions. A federal-provincial program provided another \$450,000 in incentives for the restoration.

Last year the City Council approved another \$625,000 in concessions but set June 1, 1991, as the deadline for Canadian Pacific to qualify for the deal.

*Duncan Fraser, Heritage Officer, City of  
Edmonton Planning and Development  
Department.*



## Regional News

### HERITAGE TRAIL - EDMONTON

The Heritage Trail streetscape design is being extended into the Oliver neighbourhood of Edmonton with the construction of the Victoria Promenade. The expanded tree-lined walkway runs along 100 Avenue from 116 to 121 Streets. It is part of the general community improvements resulting from the Alberta Municipal Partnership in Local Employment (AMPLE), an eight year infra-structure upgrading program established by the provincial government and coordinated by the City of Edmonton.

Construction began last year on the Victoria Promenade. The foundation was laid for four river viewpoints and two stairways into the valley. A total of 52 mature elm and ash trees will be planted between the existing trees and will replace 15 poplar trees which had reached the end of their lifespan.

The Promenade will be completed this year and will include heritage street-lights, drinking fountains, benches, litter receptacles and artwork. The artwork will consist of special signage, a sculpture/water feature depicting the historical development of Oliver and busts of four notable Oliver residents: Nellie McClung, Maude Bowman, Abraham Cristall and Judge Lucien Dubuc.

The extension of Heritage Trail west from Grandin LRT Station to Victoria Promenade at 116 Street is being examined by the Planning and Development Department. This would create an attractive, continuous walkway into the downtown from Oliver's residential area.

— Submitted by Duncan Fraser, Heritage Officer,  
The City of Edmonton  
Planning and Development Department.

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### EDMONTON COUPLE WINS AWARD

On February 19, 1990, in Ottawa, the former Federal Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard marked Canada's Heritage Day by presenting Canadian Parks Service Awards to 10 recipients from across Canada in recognition of their efforts to preserve Canada's natural and cultural heritage.

The 1989 award recipients from Alberta were Cam and Joy Finlay of Edmonton, a dynamic couple who have made the preservation of Canada's natural heritage a lifelong commitment. Joy's dedication was exemplified in the success of Wildlife '87. She gave up a senior salaried position for 2 years to work as a volunteer on the project. Cam has long been a most effective lobbyist on environmental issues. While president of the Alberta Wildlife Conservation Centennial Association, he helped establish the Alberta Wildlands Trust.

The Canadian Parks Service Heritage Awards have been presented since 1978. Recipients are honoured for significant contributions to heritage conservation through policy development, research and education, resource management, public awareness and stewardship.

— Minister Environment Canada  
News Release



#### Important Notice

This issue of  
THE CORNERSTONE  
is printed on

Save A Tree Gloss recycled paper.



# Archival Conservation

Of all the challenges facing archival institutions today, the most compelling is that of conservation.

In 1988 the Alberta Archives Council published the results of a comprehensive and well documented survey and analysis of the state of archives in Alberta. This Needs Assessment and Planning Study revealed the following concerns:

- 50% of Alberta Archives lacked environmentally controlled archival quality storage space.
- Only the most rudimentary preventive conservation measures have been or can be performed.
- No Alberta archives had in-house micrographics capability as a measure of preventive conservation; nor did any have resources to contract such work to the private sector.
- 15% of all holdings were in urgent need of conservation.
- There was no laboratory in Alberta dedicated to the conservation of archival paper records.

There has been increased public awareness of the seriousness of archival conservation problems by such national figures as David Suzuki and by being made the subject of television programs. A brief by the Alberta Archives Council and the Alberta Society of Archivists emphasizing the need for a Provincial Archives of Alberta conservation laboratory capable of delivering conservation on a province-wide cost-sharing basis, was favourably received by the Honourable Doug Main, Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism.

While still seeking solutions to save the 15% of our holdings in dire straits, Alberta's archival conservation program realistically emphasizes the bulk of our holdings which are in

a less fragile state. Our priorities are threefold: the centralized conservation laboratory service mentioned above, preventive conservation, and training.

Preventive conservation entails the upgrading of physical facilities to improve environmental conditions and increase the use of adequate storage equipment and supplies; micrographics are vitally necessary to convert twentieth-century acidic paper records to a more durable format to ensure the survival of their informational content, as is technical processing, preventive maintenance, copying and reformatting of other media; and consultative and advisory services will assist institutions to identify preventive conservation requirements and micrographics applications. Training will focus on, but not be limited to, workshops, primarily for archives staff and volunteers, and possibly awareness sessions for users, sponsors and decision makers.

The 1989 National Strategic Conservation Plan of the Canadian Council of Archives, corroborating the view that it is easier, cheaper and more efficient to prevent deterioration than to remedy it, concentrated on 3 major areas of preventive conservation: training and information; research and development; and cooperative assistance programs. Of particular interest is the emphasis on research and development which is more easily addressed at the national level.

The Canadian archival community is now working to obtain the support of their archival repositories and all levels of government, so that the achievable remedies outlined in these strategies can be implemented as soon as possible.

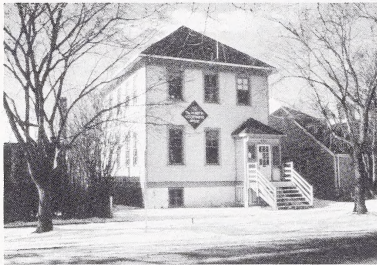
— Jean F. Tener, President, AAC, 1988-1990  
and University of Calgary archivist.

# Application Grants App

133 grant applications were received by the Foundation for th

41	Historic Resources Preservation .....	\$245,000.00
9	Feasibility/Planning Studies .....	64,000.00
1	Cemetery Restoration .....	2,000.00
12	Heritage Awareness .....	29,692.00
15	Historical Publication .....	14,500.00

*The following are examples of projects being funded:*



**HILLHURST  
COTTAGE SCHOOL  
(1910)**

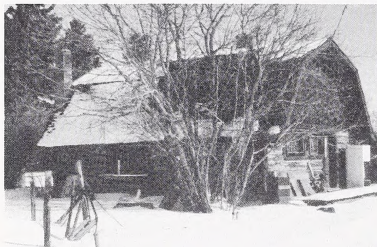
**Calgary.** \$8,000 towards a feasibility study to determine the structural and architectural condition to bring the building up to code standards.

*(Provincial Historic Resource, 1986)*



**CIRCLEBANK HALL  
(1935)**

**Beaverlodge.** \$3,000 toward the cost of reshingling the roof with cedar shingles. *(Local Historic Resource)*



**PIPESTONE CREEK  
STORE & POST OFFICE  
(1936)**

**Wembley.** \$3,000 towards reshingling the roof with cedar shakes. *(Local Historic Resource)*



**LEBEL MANSION  
(Circa 1909)**

**Pincher Creek.** \$5,000 towards the restoration of the east wall. *(Registered Historic Resource, 1976 )*



## oved by the Foundation

February 1, 1990 deadline. Of these, 96 were funded as follows:

13	Research .....	\$47,250.00
2	Education.....	2,300.00
3	Special Societies .....	78,450.00
	<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$483,192.00</b>

### *Photo Credits: Historic Sites, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism*



**REV. ALEXANDER FORBES  
HOMESTEAD RESIDENCE,  
(1911-1912)**

**Grande Prairie.** \$10,000 towards a feasibility study to assess the condition of the building to bring it up to code standards. (Provincial Historic Resource, 1976)



**BISHOP'S PALACE  
(Grandin House)  
(1882-1887)**

**St. Albert.** \$5,000 towards painting exterior and restoration of windows. (Provincial Historic Resource 1977)



**ST. LAWRENCE  
ANGLICAN CHURCH (1915)**

**Monitor.** \$5,000 for restoration of exterior, new eavestroughing and repainting the exterior and interior. (Local Historic Resource)



**ROSSDALE BREWERY  
(1905)**

**Edmonton.** \$5,000 towards a feasibility/engineering study to bring the building up to code standards. (Registered Historic Resource, 1980)

# Crowsnest Pass Ecomuseum and Historic District

In February, 1989, the Crowsnest Pass Ecomuseum became the first Historic District in Alberta under a new programme administered through the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation. This programme supports heritage preservation activities as a tool to overall community development and enhancement. The Crowsnest Pass Ecomuseum, as the Historic District programme's first funding recipient, will lead the way for other Alberta communities to explore cultural tourism development.

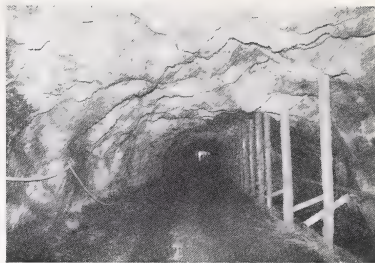
An ecomuseum is a geographic area rich in historic and social heritage. The Crowsnest Pass, located in south-western Alberta, along highway 3, is one of the 3 major passes through the Canadian Rockies. Because of its rich human history, its numerous and well preserved structural resources, its archaeological history and its natural and recreational resources, the Crowsnest Pass provides an ideal setting for an Ecomuseum.

The following 3 key resource sites were selected as first priority by the Ecomuseum Board, to promote the phased development of restoration and interpretation of the historic and coal mining corridor:

**1. The Bellevue Mine.** The Bellevue Mine operated from 1903-1961 and will soon be re-opened to allow visitors to experience first hand what underground mining was really like in the Pass.



*BELLEVUE MINE ENTRANCES*



*BELLEVUE MINE INTERIOR VIEW  
UNDER CONSTRUCTION*

## **2. The Coleman Journal Building**

built sometime between 1904 and 1906. Visitors will be able to browse through the newspaper office which contains original equipment, including a functional 1898 printing press. There will also be news item displays, particularly from the 1930's when labour struggles and communism were in the forefront of the news.



*THE COLEMAN BUILDING*

**3. An interpretive bus tour of the Pass** will provide an opportunity to learn about the intriguing natural, historical and cultural aspects of the area and to hear stories of some of the colourful characters and events that make the Crowsnest Pass what it is to-day.

—Helen Tremaine, Executive Director,  
Crowsnest Pass Ecomuseum Trust.

\*Photo credits: Crowsnest Pass  
Ecomuseum Trust - Dick Marquardt



# The Princess Theatre – The “Flagship of Old Strathcona”



*Photo Credit: City of Edmonton Archives*

A full year of festivities is planned to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Princess Theatre in Old Strathcona this year.

At a cost of \$75,000 in 1915, the 660-seat vaudeville playhouse was built by J.W. McKernan, an Edmonton entrepreneur and cinema pioneer who amassed a fortune during the pre-war 1914 -1918 real estate boom. War was raging in Europe and the economy was in deep depression.

The theatre's ultimate design is thought to be inspired after the original Empire Theatre in downtown Edmonton which had a “colonial” facade. With the exception of the B.C. marble used for the facade, which distinguished the Princess as the only marble-fronted structure west of Winnipeg, all materials and labour were supplied from Edmonton. The vestibule and lobby were finished in marble and tile; stained glass crowned the double-entrance doors and a grand staircase led directly to the balcony.

The public's appreciation of the new theatre was evident, given the “throngs which filled the Princess to overflowing” at its opening ceremony on March 8th, 1915. Its first regular program which starred Mary Pickford in “The Eagle's Mate” and

released by the newly formed Famous Players, was the first of many productions John McKernan undertook to provide the kind of variety and sparkle he felt was necessary to grace the stage he now owned.

Unfortunately the bottom fell out of the real estate market in 1913 and with the advancement of new technologies, competition from the downtown Bijou theatre and delays in receiving film shows due to the War, the Princess Theatre found itself in serious financial difficulties.

Mr. McKernan died in 1919 from influenza. The Princess remained in the McKernan family until 1958, but was leased and managed by Alexander Entwistle, owner of one of the major theatre chains in Edmonton from the 1920's to 1940's. New technology, sound movies and television caused the death of the Princess theatre. The building was converted for use by small businesses until 1970 when Town Cinema purchased the building and refurbished it as the Klondike Theatre, a second-rate movie house.

In 1976 the Old Strathcona Foundation rescued the aging Princess and restored it to its original beauty and reopened its doors in 1978. The rejuvenated Princess's first manager, Frank Grisdale, introduced the idea of repertory theatre and in early 1979 under the management of Susan Morrow, the repertory program and the successful annual Film Festival have made the Princess Theatre once again the “Flagship of Old Strathcona.”

For information regarding the theatre's Calendar of Events contact Liz Iggulden, Executive Assistant, Old Strathcona Foundation, 8331 - 104 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 4E9.  
Phone: (403) 433-5866.

— *Material for this article was supplied by Elly de Jongh and Ken Tingley, Edmonton.*

# Items of Interest

## JIM PARKER KILLED



*Photo Credit: University of Alberta Archives*

It is with sadness that THE CORNERSTONE reports the death of Jim Parker who died June 21st in a car accident.

After a distinguished career with the University of Alberta's Archives, he took up a new position in February as Area Manager, North Eastern Alberta region, for Historic Sites Service, operating out of Fort McMurray's Oil Sands Interpretive Centre.

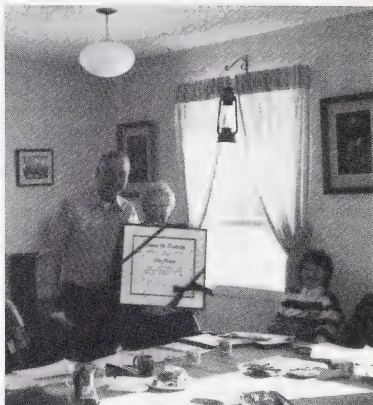
## School House Wanted

Richard Adkins, Westlock, Alberta, is looking for an old school house or hall in good condition, to house his extensive horse-powered homestead museum. His collection has outgrown the building he is presently using for a museum on his farm located one mile from the town of Westlock on highway 18. His collection has attracted visitors from as far away as the British Isles, France, Ukraine, United States and Poland.

His wooden zoo, which consists of over 100 animals he has carved, is a great attraction to children visiting his farm.

Anyone who knows of an old school house or hall can contact Mr. Adkins by writing him at Box 186, Westlock, Alberta T0G 2L0 or phone (403) 349-3818.

## Esther Thesberg, Innisfail Honoured



*Nelson Nicholson, Vice-President of the Danish Heritage Society presenting Esther Thesberg with an Honorary Life Membership Certificate.*

At its Annual Meeting held in February in the Innisfail Historical Village, the Danish Heritage Society of Dickson presented Esther Thesberg with an Honorary Life Membership in recognition of her contribution as the Founding Chairman and for her dedication to the goals and objectives of the Society.

Esther served on the editorial committee of the area's local history book GRUBSTAKE TO GRAIN published in 1971. She interviewed pioneers in the area for her published book HISTORY OF DICKSON and participated in the development of Friends of the Stephansson House and Friends of the Markerville Creamery. She has also been a major participant in the restoration of the Dickson store and its projected pioneer museum.

\* \* \* \* \*



# Items of Interest

## Willow Creek Historical Association 30th Anniversary



*Charter Members of the Historical Association with Dr. Grant MacEwan. Back row left to right - Jimmy Gordon, George White, Dr. MacEwan, Jean Hoare, Ken Dahl. Front row left to right - Marg Pezderic, Florence Wilford, Grace Dahl.*

*Photo Credit: Judy Dahl*

The Willow Creek Historical Association celebrated its 30th Anniversary on Friday, February 23rd, in the Claresholm Community Hall with over 150 in attendance. The ceremony was organized by Jean Hoare, Dorothy Minor and George Lane.

The Historical Association began at Jean Hoare's Driftwillow Ranch on February 25, 1960, but as membership grew the monthly meetings were shifted to the Flying Inn.

Special guests included Dr. Grant MacEwan, Claresholm's Mayor Patterson, representatives of other southern Alberta Historical groups, the Honourable LeRoy Fjordbotten, Ken Eaglespeaker, Department of Culture and Multiculturalism; Linda Eaglespeaker; Bruce Haig, Lethbridge, and Audrey Maurushat, the Association's first secretary.

Special guest speaker, Doctor Sid Cornish, who was the Association's first President, was unable to attend due to a fogged-in airport at Penticton. However, a letter he wrote was sent by fax and read at the ceremony.

The Association's new President is Elvina Mohr, a granddaughter of NWMP James Daly.

## The Foundation Receives Gift



*George Dronik House (Built 1918)*

*Photo Credit: Lennox Grafton*

Mr. Lennox Grafton of Toronto recently presented the Foundation with architectural drawings and photographs of two sod and mud houses built by the Ukrainian community in the Two Hills District.

The drawings of the log and mud houses were done by Mr. Grafton in 1947 when he was an architectural student at the University of Toronto. Upon hearing that he was spending the summer in Alberta, his professor assigned him to do two measured drawings of Canadian buildings of architectural importance – these being the log and mud houses of Two Hills.

The detailed drawings, about 28"x20", illustrate the new method of log and mud construction used in house building in the district. It was a satisfactory way of coping with building material shortages. The resulting houses were sturdy, warm, comfortable and attractive in appearance. With the help of communal building bees, the houses were quickly erected.

Mr. Grafton thought Alberta rather than Ontario should be the benefactor of his endeavors.

# Calendar of Events

## *Environmental Exhibit opens at Rocky Mountain House Museum*

A growing awareness of environmental issues is currently sweeping the North American society. A new vocabulary is developing, presenting us with words like "green" "ozone friendly" and "biosphere". Although the words are new, the practices and ideology of ecological activism are not.

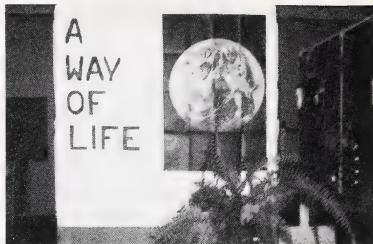
Fifty years ago, the word "recycle" did not exist. Yet most people naturally practiced conservation as a way of life. Various pressures and social habits contributed to this activity: thrift, the Judeo/Christian work ethic and shortage of materials were among the main factors. Also, there simply was not the manufacturing and industrial base that caused/has been caused by, the post modern consumerist society.

In light of this, the Rocky Mountain House Museum developed and recently opened "A WAY OF LIFE — before the disposable society" exhibit showing the environmentally friendly way the people of just 2 generations ago lived.

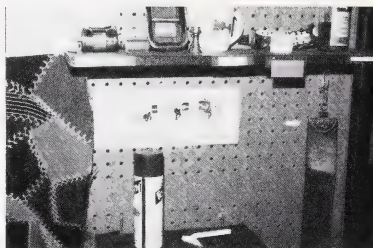
Consisting of 4 double-sided panels, the exhibit uses both artifacts and text to illustrate many different elements of pioneer conservation. The 4 panels stand in a rectangle, creating an interior area where comparisons are made, showing the old, environmentally friendly reusable, refillable artifacts and their modern equivalents.

Appropriately enough, many parts of the exhibit itself are recycled and reusable. Produced by Duke Covey and the Rocky Mountain House museum, the exhibit runs until August 1, 1990. If visiting Rocky Mountain House during the summer, plan to see this thought provoking exhibit.

*Photo Credits: Duke Covey*



The opening panel of the exhibit.



The process of shaving perhaps best illustrates the theme of the exhibit. In just 35 years, the "morning shave" has become an entirely "disposable" procedure.



A shocking collage, formed of a mixture of roadside, office and industrial waste frames a gas-masked mannequin. The text tells of our ever increasing volume of waste products.

—Duke Covey, Curator,  
Rocky Mountain House Museum.



# Calendar of Events (continued)

**ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY** presents "Seminar 1990 - The British Heritage Forum" on October 26 and 27, 1990, in Calgary. This Seminar, featuring John Kitzmiller and Associates of Salt Lake City, Utah, offers lecture sessions for genealogists at all levels who are researching ancestry from the British Isles. Registration is \$40 Canadian, lunch included. For more information please contact: Rene Dussome, 752 80 Avenue S.W. Calgary, Alberta T2V 0V1.

**U.S.A. NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE**, June 6-9, 1990, Arlington, Virginia. Sessions will interest people working with Jewish, Quaker, American Indian or slave genealogy; those researching various parts of America, Germany, Britain, Holland, Russia, France, Ireland, Quebec; and those interested in such diverse topics as genetic inheritance and cattle brands. For more information please contact: Helen Backhouse, 1608 50th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2T 2V9. Phone: 287-1232.

**GENEALOGICAL TOUR OF ENGLAND** with Frank Hankins, September 14-28, 1990. \$1,829.00. Includes airfare from Toronto, seven nights in London (with breakfast) and guidance and problem solving consultations. For more information please contact: Helen Backhouse, 1608 50th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2T 2V9. Phone: 287-1232.

**INTRODUCTION TO ARCHIVES SEMINAR**, September 14-15, 1990. (9 am - 4 pm each day) at the Capri Centre, Red Deer, Alberta. Instructors are Brian Owens, Outreach Archivist, ASA/AAC and Marianne Mack, Archivist, Provincial Archives of Alberta. Registration deadline: Friday, August 24th, 1990. The seminar, which is a pre-requisite for other Core-curriculum seminars and workshops in the ASA Education Program, will provide participants with a basic awareness of the principles and methodology of archival science in terms of appraisal, acquisition, preservation/conservation, processing and availability of multi-media archival

records.

Other up-coming fall 1990 sessions include CONSERVATION 1 (late September or early October) and COPYRIGHT (mid November).

For further information, please contact: Sandra Kiemele, Chair, Education Committee, Alberta Society of Archivists, c/o #504, 424 - 10th Street N.W., Calgary, Alberta T2N 1V9. Phone: 268-8184 (day) or 283-8487 (eve.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## **HERITAGE EDUCATION PROGRAM - WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK & BIOSPHERE RESERVE, SUMMER 1990**

Beginning in June, the Waterton Natural History Association, with the assistance of the Alberta Museums Association, will present the following course series, in one and two day sessions, up to August 19th.

**SACRED PLACES AND SACRED SPACES**, July 14th, with Dr. Brian Reeves, Professor of Archaeology at University of Calgary. Fee: \$35.00.

**ALPINE WILDFLOWERS**, July 20 (evening) & July 21 (day) with Elizabeth Beaubien, a naturalist and environmental educator, presently working on her Masters at University of Alberta. Fee: \$35.00.

**"THE CROWN"**, July 28, with Howard Snyders, Executive Director of the Waterton Biosphere Association. Fee: \$35.00.

**WATERTON PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP**, August 18 & 19 (Intermediate to Advanced) with Dr. Van Christou. Fee: \$100.00.

For further information and to register please contact: Waterton Natural History Association, P.O. Box 145, Waterton Park, Alberta T0K 2M0. Phone (403) 859-2624

## CALMAR AND DISTRICT

The Calmar and District Historical Society extends an invitation to attend a centenary celebration for the Calmar district on August 4th and 5th, 1990.

A variety of activities and exhibits are being arranged for visitors of all ages and include a parade, centenary program (2:00 P.M.) and Fiddlers Jamboree and Old Time Dance for August 4th. An interdenominational church service and picnic highlight activities for August 5th.

For more information regarding this event, please contact: Violet G.Coates, Secretary, Calmar & District Historical Society, R.R. 4 Calmar, Alberta T0C 0V0.

\* \* \* \* \*

## BLUEBERRY MOUNTAIN - PEACE RIVER

The Munro Branch of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, at Blueberry Mountain in the Peace River area will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary on the 8th and 9th of September, 1990. The Rev. Mr. McSweeney, who preached the church's first service in 1940, will be present for this occasion.

Blueberry Mountain is located 25 miles out of Spirit River. For more information about this event please contact: Wilma Bird, Blueberry Mountain, Alberta T0H 0H0.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Ottawa, Ontario  
January 19, 1990

Attn: Betty Dahlie, Editor

I have just received a copy of the Fall 1989 issue of "The Cornerstone", the copy was kindly sent by the Sproules, owners of the Scheer/Sproule home on the front cover of the issue.

I wish to request a correction to the article. The correction, however small, is important, especially in a publication of this nature. The second paragraph states "The land was first settled in 1909 by the Harold Scheer family...." It should have read "The land was first settled in 1909 by Harry G. and Mary C. Scheer and their family...." My grandfather Harry Gustavas Scheer and my grandmother, Mary Cornelia Scheer together deserve the credit for the pioneers that they were.

My father and mother, Norman and Joy Scheer, started purchasing the land from my grandparents in 1937. On October 31, 1937 I, as a six month old baby along with my sister Norma and our parents moved to the big home built by my grandparents.

The depression had left dreadful scars across the prairies and my parents took on an incredible task by today's standards.

It wasn't until the late 1940's and early 1950's that my parents were financially able to start concentrating on the yards and buildings again. The farm was always a landmark, and the setting for ongoing social and community events. (My mother 'Joy' was a superb hostess!)

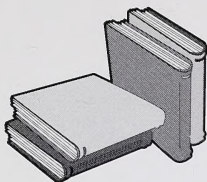
In the 1970's after my parents sold their home and land, the buildings began to fall victim to age and disrespect. What a blessing Winston and Vera Sproule came to the rescue, they have restored the home to its original beauty.

Yours truly,

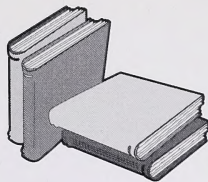
Carol (Scheer) O'Brien

\*By the way, Harold Scheer was my father's eldest brother and very much a part of that "pioneer family."





# Books



## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### **YOUNGSTOWN MEMORIES 1909 - 1983**

published by the Youngstown and District Historical Society. The book contains over 700 pages and over 1000 pictures. Price: \$45.00 delivered. For a copy contact: Mrs. Helena Laughlin, President, Youngstown & District Historical Society Box 220, Youngstown, Alberta T0J 3P0. Phone: (403) 779-2286.

### **ALBERTA'S LOCAL HISTORIES IN THE HISTORICAL RESOURCES LIBRARY**

(8th Edition) published by the Historical Resources Library, Provincial Archives of Alberta, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism. A copy has been distributed to 278 public libraries and provincial genealogical organizations in Alberta and throughout Canada. A limited number of copies are still available and can be obtained by contacting Mrs. Margaret E. Bhatnagar, librarian, Historical Resources Library, Provincial Archives of Alberta, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, 12845 - 102nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 0M6. Phone: (403) 427-1750. The Historical Resources Library wishes to thank the historical societies in Alberta for their excellent assistance in supplying material for this publication.

**WINGS OVER CALGARY** by Bruce W. Gowans. Published by the Historical Society of Alberta (Chinook Country Chapter). The 71 pages of photos and illustrations describe many aspects of civil aviation in the Calgary area from the date of the first flight in 1906 until WW11 curtailed civilian aviation activities. Price: \$14.95 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling. For a copy please contact: The Chinook Country Chapter, Historical Society of Alberta, Box 4481, Stn. "C", Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3.

**MEMORIES OF A MOUNTAIN MAN** by Parks and People, a cooperative venture of Parks Canada and the Jasper Yellowhead

Historical Society. Copies may be obtained for \$8.95 at the Jasper Townsite Information Centre and the Columbia Icefield Information Centre or Parks and People, Box 992, Jasper, Alberta T0E 1E0. Phone: (403) 852-4767.

## RECENT LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

The Foundation wishes to thank the following donors for their contributions to its Evelyn de Mille Reference Library.

**CHRISTMAS OF YESTERYEAR** written and published by the Ashmont Grade Seven Class, Ashmont, Alberta, 1989. Presented by the Ashmont Grade Seven Class.

**WAY BACK WHEN** written and published by the Ashmont Grade Seven Class, Ashmont, Alberta, 1989. Presented by the Ashmont Grade Seven Class.

**WIND IN THE SAILS: THE EDMONTON YACHT CLUB 1923 - 1981** by Margaret Lemieux. Published by the Seba Beach Heritage Society, Seba Beach.

**A GENTLEMAN OF STRATHCONA** Alexander Cameron Rutherford, Occasional Paper No. 8. Published by Alberta Culture, Historic Resources Division, Edmonton, 1980.

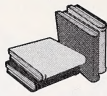
**EMPIRE OF DUST** by David Jones. Published by the University of Alberta Press, 1987. Donated by Evelyn de Mille.

**RANCHERS' LEGACY** by Lewis Thomas. Donated by Evelyn de Mille.

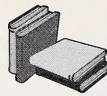
**THE PAINTED LADIES** (San Francisco Homes) by E. Pomada and M. Larsen. Donated by Evelyn de Mille.

**THE NATIONAL TRUST MANUAL OF HOUSEKEEPING** by Sandworth and Shainton. Donated by Evelyn de Mille.





# Books



## RECENT ACQUISITIONS, continued

**CENTURY OF COLOR** (Exterior Decoration). Donated by Evelyn de Mille.

**CEMETERY RECORDING INDEX**, Vol. 2, 1988. Published and presented by the Alberta Genealogical Society.

**CEMETERY RECORDING INDEX**, Vol. 3, 1989. Published and presented by the Alberta Genealogical Society.

**REMINISCE WITH FRIEDENSTAL**. Published and presented by the Friedenstal Historical Society.

**REPORT ON THE PROJECT TO RESEARCH RECORDS OF CALGARY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** by Anita Pinette. Presented by Anita Pinette.

**GUIDELINES FOR THE REHABILITATION OF DESIGNATED HISTORIC RESOURCES**. Compiled and edited by Karen Russell. Published by Alberta Culture & Multiculturalism.

**WINGS OVER CALGARY** by Bruce W. Gowans. Published by the Historical Society of Alberta (Chinook Country Chapter) 1990. Donated by the Chinook Country Chapter.

**MEMORIES OF A MOUNTAIN MAN** by Bruce Neighbor. Published and presented by Parks and People, Jasper-Yellowhead Historical Society, Jasper, Alberta.

**THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA** by Leo Thwaite. Donated by Evelyn de Mille.

**TOFIELD** the Gas City of Southern Alberta. Donated by Evelyn de Mille.

**ALBERTA'S LOCAL HISTORIES IN THE HISTORICAL RESOURCES LIBRARY** published and donated by the Historical Resources Library, Provincial Archives of Alberta, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ALBERTA is seeking the services of an individual who will administer the central office. Working with an elected Council, the Executive Director will also investigate and help develop programmes which will promote the aims and objects of the Society, and increase its visibility, as well as to assist communities and individuals to research, record, promote and preserve Alberta's History.

This is a new position and is initially for a two year term, but with a possibility for renewal.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** A degree in history is highly recommended, but university, or equivalent, courses in history are essential. We are seeking an enthusiastic, highly motivated individual. Some administrative skills are required. Must be free to travel within the province.

**SALARY:** To be negotiated.

**CLOSING DATE:** 31st July, 1990.

**COMMENCEMENT DATE:** September 17th, 1990.

**APPLY to:** The President,  
Historical Society of Alberta  
Box 4035, Station "C",  
Calgary, Alberta T2T 5M9

Mark the envelope: **COMPETITION.**

Dear Members:

Since this issue of THE CORNERSTONE is my last issue as Editor, I would like to thank all those who have contributed from around the province to THE CORNERSTONE. Your contributions have been most interesting and valuable to the Foundation members and have made THE CORNERSTONE the worthwhile preservation newsletter it is to-day.

For inquiries regarding THE CORNERSTONE, please contact Mark Rasmussen, c/o Old St. Stephen's College, 8820-112 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2P8. Phone: 431-2300.

Yours sincerely,

Betty Dahlie, Editor

**'PRESERVATION IS CARING  
FOR ALBERTA'**